

Approval for waste melter called premature

COLBORNE CHRONICLE

By VALERIE MACDONALD July 20/02
STAFF WRITER

The two members of the waste services division of Northumberland County's operations committee are concerned that county council has given approval in principle to a private company's waste melting plans without proper evaluation of the technology.

The committee is in the midst of creating a matrix to screen proposals such as the one Pearl Earth Sciences has taken directly to Northumberland County Council for its endorsement — but the matrix is not quite ready.

Pearl Earth Sciences has already made two presentations to county council and to potential host municipality Cramahe Township. The rezoning application public meeting is set for August 21, 6:45 p.m. at Castleton, the next meeting of Cramahe Township council.

Northumberland County has responsi-

bility for all waste management in the county - uncluding any recycling, wet and dry waste collection and disposal. The Pearl Earth Services technology would process "wet" in a high-temperature heating process which renders the waste as a into a glass-like residue. The firm proposes charging tonnage fees for wet waste accepted - waste that may be removed from the county's system.

Last month the company asked county council for its blessing to proceed with a residential wet waste facility using plasma arc technology. It did not ask for a commitment about any quantity of residential wet waste it would "melt" or for an financial commitment — so council-agreed with several stipulations, including that it meet all provincial and municipal regulations.

But, says the committee's citizen member, Gwen Brice of the Port Hope area, has the public been involved in the process and been given time to express its concerns? Certainly the waste committee hasn't been

given time to evaluate how the "new technology impacts on the waste management system for the county" she writes in a letter discussed by fellow committee members on Monday.

"Without the updated Waste Management Master Plan, it is premature to introduce new components such as the plasma melter system into the county's waste management system," her letter continues.

The other citizen member, Dean Peters of Warkworth, shared her concerns and noted that misinformation about what approvals the county has given have been reported in neighbouring county newspapers. And if people look up plasma arc technology on the Internet there are references not to residential wet waste (as proposed by Pearl Earth Sciences) but to the disposal of nuclear, defence, medical and low-level radioactive waste.

The public could get the wrong idea completely, he argued.

Committee chairperson and Cobourg

Mayor Joan Chalovich stressed that the county has not given its unconditional approval to the project. But, she noted, it is a private enterprise that can proceed without the county.

Cramahe Township Reeve Stu Oliver, whose municipality hopes to host the facility on about 200 acres north of Colborne, says the August 21 public meeting is part of the Official Plan amendment and necessary rezoning. Pearl Earth Sciences is currently in discussions with surrounding counties and regions to attain commitments for the quantity of garbage needed to make the plant feasible.

The company is planning to return to county council and make those requests next month, he said.

County administrator Lynda Mitchell expressed her disappointment with the company for bypassing the committee and making delegations directly to council without staff having the time to get information for a background report.

SHILOH LADIES SUPPORT COMMUNITY

PHOTO BY BOB OWEN

Under the shade of the crab apple tree members of the Shiloh Ladies Group present a cheque for \$500 to Kristine Zinck of Colborne and Area Community Care. An equal amount was also donated to Brighton Community Care. Another \$200 went



to the Colborne Cramahe Fire Department.

The funds were raised at the ladies' annual tea and bake sale - a county tradition. Less than 12 women bake up a storm, raffle off a beautiful quilt, serve tea - and raise thousands of dollars in a matter of hours.

Seated in front are - Alice McCaul, Germaine James, Dorothy Dale. Behind - Kristine Zinck of Colborne Community Care, Beryl Mutton, Lesley Owen, Pat Johnston and Trish Baird of Northumberland Community Care.

600 DEATH NOTICES

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DUNK, SARAH IDA ETHEL

Suddenly at the Quinte Health Care Trenton Memorial Hospital, on Saturday, July 15th, 2000. Ethel Dunk (nee Loveless) in her 70th year. Beloved wife of Godfrey Gerald Dunk. Dear mother of Hazel May Deckert (Steve), Gerald Alfred Dunk (Barb), and Guy Leighton Dunk (Carolyn). Loving grandmother of Sara, Erin, Jasmine, Gerry, Cheyenne, D.J., April, Wanda, Shawn, Jessica-Lynn and Amber. Great-grandmother of Avery and Timothy Pandachuck and Sebastian Dunk. Sister of Winnifred Evans, James Loveless, George Loveless, Dean Loveless, Roy Loveless, Grace Farrow, Hazel Bernard, Marilyn Darrington and Connie Hall. A Funeral Service was held at MacCoubrey Funeral Home, 11 King St. West, Colborne, on Tuesday, July 18th, at 11am. Interment held at Salem Cemetery. Visitation was held at the funeral home on Monday from 2-4 and 7-9pm. Those wishing may make a memorial contribution by cheque to the Canadian Diabetes Association or Eden United Church.